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DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

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Date: January 27, 1945

To: Mr. Frederick B. Lyon
Chief
Division of Foreign Activity Correlation
Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Dr. Ricardo Paredes
Communist Activities - Ecuador

As of possible interest to you, there is enclosed a copy of a memorandum received from a reliable, confidential source regarding the captioned individual, an Ecuadoran physician who is said to have become one of the leading Communists in that country in the late 1920's. In 1930 he was allegedly invited to spend a year in Russia studying the political philosophy of that country. About 1935 or 1936 he was exiled to Chile for a short period. He is presently Secretary General of the Communist Party in Ecuador.

This information has been made available to the American Embassy at Quito, Ecuador.

cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

cc - Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
War Department, Washington, D.C.
Attention: Brigadier General Carter W. Clarke

Enclosure

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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FIS

December 28, 1944

Re: Dr. RICARDO PAREDES
Ecuador

Reliable Sources A and B advised that subject was born in Riobamba, Ecuador of middle class parents around 1900. He spent his childhood in Riobamba and in Quito, but completed some of his university studies in Guayaquil. He finally graduated from the Central University in Quito and began his practice as a physician.

From his youth, he was a strong supporter of Communism and joined the Party in Ecuador prior to 1927. In 1930 he was subsidized by the Russian Government to visit Russia and attend political educational courses in that country. He remained absent from Ecuador about one year, and on his return he became Communist candidate for the presidency during the local presidential elections of 1932.

According to Source C, upon his return from Russia subject spread the idea of persecuting the intellectuals of the Socialist-Communist Party, branding them as "opportunists". As a result of this, the Party split into two completely different factions and the section to which PAREDES belonged became a part of the Third International and changed its name to the Communist Party of Ecuador.

Source B further advised that subject, in the early 1930's, continued to play an important role in Communist activities in Ecuador, and in 1935 he, along with other Communist leaders, was banished from the country to Chile by the conservative PAEZ government.

Upon his return to Ecuador in 1936, subject continued his efforts in behalf of Communism though he never became known as one of the more radical "rabble rousers", such as PEDRO A. SAAD and NEPTALI PACHECO LEON. Subject moved to Esmeraldas, Ecuador, which has always been a province of extremely radical elements, and according to Source A did an efficient job of organizing his Communist followers.

During the next few years, according to Source D, subject continued to play an active part in Communist affairs in Ecuador, but due to the extreme measures taken against Communism by the ARROYO government around 1941 subject temporarily retired from the active scene of politics and continued to practice his profession as a physician in Esmeraldas. During this time, he has been able to live on his professional income.

RICARDO PAREDES

During the next several years, subject was used by Communist leaders as an adviser, but he did not play as important a role in Party politics as did PEDRO A. SAAD, ENRIQUE GIL GILBERT and NEPTALI PACHECO LEON.

Following the revolution of May 28, 1944, it was noted that subject's name entered into Communist Party affairs and he began to take a more active role than ever before.

In an article published in EL COMERCIO, Quito newspaper, dated August 18, 1944, the Communist Party held a large meeting at the Teatro SUCRE in Quito, Ecuador at which time subject was presented to the public as the new Secretary-General of the Communist Party. Apparently to date, this has been the most important role he has ever held in the Communist Party.

Directly following this, according to Source E, the Communist Party persuaded President VELASCO IBARRA to permit the Indians of Ecuador to have a functional representative in the Constitutional Assembly. Immediately thereafter, the Indians were persuaded to elect subject PAREDES as their representative in the Assembly.

Despite his newly acquired position in the Communist Party, subject has continued to remain in the background insofar as attending Party demonstrations is concerned. However, on November 5, 1944, according to the Quito newspaper EL COMERCIO, subject PAREDES did attend and gave a short speech at the pro-Russian manifestation in Quito.

On November 7, 1944, subject presented a motion in the Constitutional Assembly at Quito recommending that Ecuador consider the recognition of Russia at an "opportune" time. This motion was passed by a large majority.

Source A advised that during October, 1944, subject played a leading "behind the scenes" role in averting a crisis within the Communist Party. There had been in Guayaquil a considerable amount of discontent with the policies of Communist leader PEDRO A. SAAD, and subject PAREDES made a special trip to Guayaquil to confer with various Communist leaders in an attempt to settle any differences that may have arisen. When the situation became more uncertain, PAREDES went to Quito and advised SAAD that he should go personally to Guayaquil in order to settle the differences that had arisen, which SAAD eventually did.

During November and December, 1944, subject PAREDES has remained in Quito performing his duties as a member of the Constitutional Assembly. He has been seen almost daily with such Communist leaders as RAYMOND JEAN MERIGUET and NEPTALI PACHECO LEON.

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R. RICARDO PAREDES

It is noted also that, according to Source F, when JAIME BARRIOS R. and NICOLAS VILLAMIZA, Colombian Communists, arrived in Quito enroute from Chile, they were contacted at their hotel on three or four occasions by subject PAREDES.

Subject did not attend the CTAL Congress held in Cali, Colombia during December 10 to December 15, 1944, but remained in Quito running Communist affairs during the absence of PEDRO A. SAAD, who attended said conference.

According to Source A, subject is generally believed to be an extremely serious and honest Communist believer who attempts to keep out of the limelight as much as possible. It has been reported that Communist headquarters in Guayaquil have attempted several times in the past to get him away from Esmeraldas to a place where he can be more useful to the Communist cause, but he is not sufficiently ambitious and has always refused to give up his residence there. He is considered one of the higher grade, better educated Communists in Ecuador. It is said that he rarely appears in public demonstrations because he is a poor speaker, lacking in personality and force.